

Once private insurance companies have income data on seniors, they can use it to selectively market their products to higher income seniors, who are likely to be healthier and use less health services.

This is a recipe for disaster. It is a step in the wrong direction for the successful and efficient Medicare program, that up until now has served every senior equally well. The approach taken in the Republican bill is wrong. We should not be taxing middle-class seniors twice for their Medicare benefits.

We should eliminate the means testing of catastrophic drug coverage in the House Republican bill. I will vote no on this motion, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HOUR OF MEETING ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2003

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourn today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, October 3, 2003.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2003 TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2003

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Friday, October 3, 2003, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7, 2003, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2003

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the call of the private calendar be dispensed with on Tuesday, October 7, 2003.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

WASHINGTON INSIDERS' NEW FIRM CONSULTS ON CONTRACTS IN IRAQ

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, as we in the House get ready to rubber-stamp another blank check for the President of the United States for \$87 billion, I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article from the New York Times dated 30 September by Douglas Jehl. This is an article that talks about the company called New Bridge. The principals are Joe Allbaugh, who was Mr. Bush's campaign manager in 2000; Mr. Ed Rogers and Mr. Lanny Griffith, who were both White House assistants for the older Bush. These people work with Haley Barbour, who is running for the Senate down in the South. These folks have put together a program. Joe Allbaugh was FEMA director. He quit that job and went to work putting together the war-profiteering company they call New Bridge. They are going to go out there, and they are all swarming around. When Bremer was here in town, they had a big party, and they began talking about how they are going to get the contracts from the \$87 billion. We are going to fund these war profiteers right out of the White House. They have no shame.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 30, 2003]

WASHINGTON INSIDERS' NEW FIRM CONSULTS ON CONTRACTS IN IRAQ (By Douglas Jehl)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—A group of businessmen linked by their close ties to President Bush, his family and his administration have set up a consulting firm to advise companies that want to do business in Iraq, including those seeking pieces of taxpayer-financed reconstruction projects.

The firm, New Bridge Strategies, is headed by Joe M. Allbaugh, Mr. Bush's campaign manager in 2000 and the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency until March. Other directors include Edward M. Rogers Jr., vice chairman, and Lanny Griffith, lobbyists who were assistants to the first President George Bush and now have close ties to the White House.

At a time when the administration seeks Congressional approval for \$20.3 billion to rebuild Iraq, part of an \$87 billion package for military and other spending in Iraq and Afghanistan, the company's Web site,

www.newbridgestrategies.com, says, "The opportunities evolving in Iraq today are of such an unprecedented nature and scope that no other existing firm has the necessary skills and experience to be effective both in Washington, D.C., and on the ground in Iraq."

The site calls attention to the links between the company's directors and the two Bush administrations by noting, for example, that Mr. Allbaugh, the chairman, was "chief of staff to then-Gov. Bush of Texas and was the national campaign manager for the Bush-Cheney 2000 presidential campaign."

The president of the company, John Howland, said in a telephone interview that it did not intend to seek any United States Government contracts itself, but might be a middleman to advise other companies that seek taxpayer-financed business. The main focus, Mr. Howland said, would be to advise companies that seek opportunities in the private sector in Iraq, including licenses to market products there. The existence of the company was first reported in National Journal, a weekly magazine of Government and politics.

Mr. Howland said the company was not trying to promote its political connections. He said that although Mr. Allbaugh, for example, had spent most of his career "in the political arena, there's a lot of cross-pollination between that world and the one that exists in Iraq today."

As part of the administration's postwar work in Iraq, the Government has awarded hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts to American businesses. Those contracts, some without competitive bidding, have included more than \$500 million to support troops and extinguish oil field fires for Kellogg, Brown & Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton, which Vice President Dick Cheney led from 1995 until 2000.

Of the \$3.9 billion a month that the administration is spending on military operations in Iraq, up to one-third may go to contractors who provide food, housing and other services, some military budget experts said. A spokesman for the Pentagon said today that the military could not provide an estimate of the breakdown.

Administration officials, including L. Paul Bremer III, the top American official in Iraq, have said all future contracts will be issued only as a result of competitive bidding. Already, the Web site for the Coalition Provisional Authority, <http://cpa-iraq.org/>, lists 36 recent solicitations, including those for contractors who might sell new AK-47 assault rifles, nine-millimeter ammunition and other goods for new army and security forces.

New Bridge Strategies was established in May and recently began full-fledged operations, including opening an office in Iraq, its officials said. They added that a decision by the Governing Council of Iraq to allow foreign companies to establish 100 percent ownership of businesses in Iraq, an unusual arrangement in the Mideast, had added to the attractiveness of the market.

Mr. Howland is a principal of Crest Investment in Houston and was president of American Rice, once a major exporter to Iraq. Richard Burt, ambassador to Germany in the Reagan administration and a former assistant secretary of state, and Lord Powell, a member of the British House of Lords and an important military and foreign-policy adviser to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, are among the 10 principals.

Mr. Allbaugh, the chairman, spent most of his career in Texas politics before Mr. Bush appointed him to head the federal disaster agency. Mr. Allbaugh, who now heads his own consulting firm here, did not return calls to his office today.

Mr. Rogers, the vice chairman who was a deputy assistant to the first President Bush and an executive assistant to the White House chief of staff, is also vice chairman of Barbour Griffith & Rogers, one of the best-connected Republican lobbying firms in the capital. Mr. Rogers founded it in 1991 with Haley Barbour, who became chairman of the Republican National Committee and is now running for governor of Mississippi.

Shortly after leaving the White House, Mr. Rogers was publicly rebuked by the first President Bush after he signed a \$600,000 contract to represent a Saudi, Sheik Kamal Adham, who was a main figure under scrutiny in a case that involved the Bank of Commerce and Credit International. Mr. Rogers canceled his contract to represent the sheik, former head of Saudi intelligence.

Mr. Griffith, a director of the new company, is chief operating officer of Barbour Griffith & Rogers, which he joined in 1993. He was special assistant for intergovernmental affairs to the first President Bush and later worked under him as an assistant secretary of education.

Until November, Mr. Rogers' wife, Edwina, was associate director of the National Economic Council at the White House. Reached by telephone today, Mr. Rogers said he did not want to speak for the record and referred a reporter to Mr. Howland.

The company Web site says the company was "created specifically with the aim of assisting clients to evaluate and take advantage of business opportunities in the Middle East following the conclusion of the U.S.-led war in Iraq."

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE IRAQI WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, about 160 years ago, Congressman and former President John Quincy Adams came to the House floor night after night, week after week to read letters from constituents, most of them women who did not have the right to vote in those days. He was protesting the decision by the conservative leadership of the House of Representatives, a decision which banned the discussion and debate of slavery on the House floor in those days. Because they had banned the discussion of slavery, Congressman JOHN Quincy Adams thought he should share letters from his constituents with Members of the House, with the American people.

Similarly, because Congress has not debated so many of the issues sur-

rounding Iraq, the question of weapons of mass destruction, the question of some of the things that the administration said that they might have misled the people of the United States, discussions about how the \$87 billion is going to be spent that the President has asked for, discussions of the hundreds of millions of dollars every week that we are now spending in Iraq, where there is no accountability for the private, unbid contracts, many of which are going to the President's friends, several of those contracts to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars going to a company called Halliburton, unbid contracts, hundreds of millions of dollars every month. Halliburton is a company that is paying the Vice President of the United States \$13,000 every month, a company where he was CEO.

Madam Speaker, I am going to read some of these letters, as John Quincy Adams did 160 years ago, allowing people in my district to speak about these issues that conservative House leadership will not let us talk about.

Madam Speaker, from Greg from Brunswick, Ohio said, "The U.S. occupation of Iraq now costs \$1 billion a week, as much as the Federal Government spends on after school programs for the entire year. Those are just military costs, not including any money for rebuilding Iraq. No weapons of mass destruction have been found." Greg writes, "Nor have we seen any evidence of an active weapons development program, and there is no exit strategy. The administration has yet to present a realistic plan for how the occupation of Iraq will end."

Lucy of Copley, Ohio, writes, "There is more than one issue that must be addressed. I am very concerned that much of the money will be turned over to President Bush's business cronies for lucrative private contracts." She is talking about Halliburton and literally the hundreds of millions of dollars of contracts they have gotten, \$13,000 every month that goes to the Vice President of the United States from that company.

"I have no absolutely no doubt that this will happen unless Congress puts some constraints on the administration. Please give a great deal of thought into all of the issues before handing Mr. Bush everything he wants, including that blank check."

Kenneth of Richfield, Ohio, writes, "I believe the President and his senior administration officials have misled the American people to pursue an agenda which they do not discuss in the election campaign and which is dangerous to world peace."

Jerlene of North Royalton, Ohio, writes, "President Bush seems to have had no real plan for what the United States would do in Iraq once we took over that country. Giving him \$87 billion is not going to get a feasible plan on the table any faster." She talks about how we are paying a billion dollars a week now in Iraq, much of that going to unbid contracts, much of that

money unaccounted for, yet, already having spent \$70 billion the President is asking for \$87 billion more. She cautions us to exercise caution about that money that the President is asking this Congress for.

She also mentions that this money is going to be borrowed from our children and grandchildren because it means more national debt to the United States.

Matthew of Akron, Ohio, writes, "Too much of taxpayers' money has been squandered on this war already. It is time to hold George Bush accountable. By granting him this request, the American people, through Congress, are doing him a huge favor, and I might add, doing the American people something much less than a big favor."

All of these letters say, we want to have questions answered. We want the safety of our troops assured. We want to make sure that our troops are supplied better than they have been as these private contractors have squandered billions of taxpayer dollars. We want accountability. We want a plan of reconstruction the American people and the Congress can understand. And we not only want that accountability, we want an exit strategy on how, in fact, when this is going to end, and how this is going to be done.

Madam Speaker, I will continue, as I have since July, to share letters from constituents on issues this Congress will not debate on answering these questions that the American people have of their elected officials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FURTHER FUNDING THE WAR IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, over the next couple of weeks, we will vote on a huge \$87 billion supplemental appropriations bill to further fund the war in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, this is a very serious piece of legislation. It is the largest supplemental appropriations bill in our Nation's history.

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While it is critically important that we get our military troops all the resources they need, I do not support rubber-stamping this legislation so this administration gets a free ride from Congress and does not have to account for its strategy in Iraq. Tough questions need to be asked.

Madam Speaker, how could the Bush administration underestimate so badly